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NSC BRIEFING

5 February 1957

CYPRUS: INCREASING VIOLENCE THREATENS

I. Indications new violence likely on Cyprus, perhaps new anti-Greek outbreak in Turkey.

A. Athens fearful of attacks on Istanbul Greeks.

1. Turk defendants in Sep '55 riots just acquitted.

2. Acquittal interpretable as immunity promise.


II. On Cyprus, itself, EOKA stepping up attacks.

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A.



B. In last two weeks, Turkish Cypriot gangs have also hit Greek Cypriots.

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NSC BRIEFING

5 February 1957

CYPRUS: INCREASING VIOLENCE THREATENS

- I. Recent reports indicate both the likelihood of new widespread violence on Cyprus and the possibility of a new anti-Greek outbreak in Turkey.
- A. Greek acting foreign minister Tsatsos told Ambassador Allen (1 Feb) that Athens is "greatly worried" over possible new anti-Greek disturbances in Istanbul.
1. Athens is anxious that Ankara "know in advance such disturbances are expected so that the Turkish government cannot say that the police in Istanbul were taken by surprise."
- B. Istanbul court's 24 Jan acquittal of those implicated in Turkish Sep. '55 riots could be interpreted as promise of immunity to any Turks contemplating new anti-Greek actions.
1. Turkish prosecutor himself moved for acquittal on grounds that Cyprus "is a Turkish island forming part of the motherland" and that riots were result of Greek "provocations."
- II. In anticipation of UN debate on Cyprus, EOKA has recently stepped up attacks against island officials, including Cypriot Turkish policemen.

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A.

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1. Despite these losses, EOKA's remaining capabilities probably are sufficient for widespread hit-and-run attacks.

- B. Twice within the past two weeks, gangs of Turkish Cypriots have raided Greek quarter of Nicosia, destroyed Greek Cypriot property (including an orthodox church in the Turkish sector).
- C. With Greeks, Turks and British all planning for a hard struggle in the UN debate (probably next week), emotions will probably be so aroused that any untoward event could set off serious disturbances.